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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 28, 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 23 totaled an estimated 17.4 billion ton-miles, 1.7 percent above the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 34 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 573.9 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 23 totaled 385,624, virtually the same as the corresponding week of last year, but 1.3 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 4.4 percent in the West, but down 4.6 percent in the East and 2.6 in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain showed a gain of 5,935 cars (30.9 percent) and metallic ores increased by 2,299 cars (16.3 percent). Fourteen of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 16 totaled 98,014 trailers and/or containers, 9.6 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 3,090,789 trailers and/or containers, up 9.7 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 08/23/86:

	Loadings in Week ended August 23, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,116	I	5,935	30.9	I	1,521	6.4
Other farm products	2,846	I	256	9.9	D	196	6.4
Metallic ores	16,381	I	2,299	16.3	I	2,492	17.9
Coal	117,441	D	146	0.1	D	501	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,090	I	692	4.8	I	523	3.6
Nonmetallic minerals	8,726	D	2,811	24.4	D	149	1.7
Grain mill products	10,420	I	21	0.2	I	98	0.9
Food and kindred products	10,789	D	373	3.3	D	279	2.5
Primary forest products	9,999	D	948	8.7	I	116	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,956	I	634	8.7	I	154	2.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,755	D	843	6.2	I	303	2.4
Chemicals and allied products	24,004	D	489	2.0	D	403	1.7
Petroleum products	4,963	I	134	2.8	I	35	0.7
Stone, clay and glass products	10,403	D	406	3.8	I	16	0.2
Coke	3,498	D	1,564	30.9	D	173	4.7
Metals and products	7,140	D	986	12.1	D	248	3.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,757	D	3,457	16.3	I	856	5.1
Waste and scrap materials	7,778	D	1,057	12.0	I	22	0.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,398	D	3,681	52.0	I	210	6.6
All other carloads	69,083	I	6,811	10.9	I	544	0.8
LCL traffic	79	D	76	49.0	I	8	11.3
Total Cars Loaded	385,624	D	55	0.0	I	4,949	1.3
Corresponding week of 1985	385,679						

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	12,649,578	12,741,090	D 0.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
33 Weeks ended August 16	556.5 (Rev.)	559.6	D 0.6
Week ended August 23	17.4	17.1	I 1.7
34 Weeks cumulative	573.9	576.7	D 0.5

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